

## COVID-19

### Internal Briefing for MinEx CRC Participants and Staff

Dear MinEx CRC Colleagues,

The purpose of this document is to provide you with an update on MinEx CRC's response to the current situation regarding the virus. The first priority of MinEx CRC is to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and research community.

At this stage all Head Office staff are well, and we are not aware of any members of the broader MinEx community that are unwell. From today all MinEx Head Office staff will be working from home, but will be fully operational and contactable via email and mobile phones as listed on the MinEx CRC website ([www.minexcrc.com.au/about-minex-crc/team/](http://www.minexcrc.com.au/about-minex-crc/team/)).

Given that MinEx CRC has researchers and collaborators distributed across multiple, diverse organisations we are not in a position to provide centralised advice on your response to COVID-19. Instead we ask that you remain informed about the rapidly evolving situation by consulting reliable sources such as those listed below and carefully adhere to the advice of your host organisations. MinEx CRC will respect and support any actions taken by researchers to comply with that advice.

In light of the Australian Government restrictions to travel and group gatherings, and various measures undertaken by workplaces to minimize exposure to the virus there is significant potential for disruption of our work routine and research schedule. Over the next week we will be conducting an audit of our research activities and milestones in order to identify exposure risks and plan for any disruption that might be caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. In some cases we may be in the fortunate position whereby work can be undertaken in controlled environments (offices or laboratories) where procedures can be implemented to minimize exposure. In other cases, for example involving international travel or group gatherings, the disruption will be more profound. Our interest is to acknowledge, prepare for and minimize these disruptions with no compromise to the safety of our researchers.

We encourage individual researchers and research teams to stay connected as much as possible via online web-conferencing facilities and to maintain your schedule of Project and Program meetings. These meetings are more important than ever to ensure effective collaboration and research continuity. We will review our plans for the Project Integration Workshop and Science Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 29-30 April 2020 in Adelaide. This remains an important piece of work for MinEx CRC but it is difficult to see how we can manage the meeting in a face-to-face format as planned. The Executive Management Team and Head Office Team, seeking advice from our diverse stakeholders, are working on a plan that will best facilitate discussion on the important matters to be considered by the Integration Workshop. Further information will be sent regarding this in the next week.

We wish to acknowledge the uncertainty, anxiety and disturbance to work and family life caused by COVID-19. Should you be feeling anxious and in need of support, we encourage you to utilise your organisations' Employee Assistance Programs (EAP). For those of you that do not have such programs, or feel uncomfortable doing so, please see below for useful links.

Available resources courtesy of the Australian Government Department of Health:

[Australian Government Department of Health](#)  
[National Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information campaign](#)  
[Frequently asked questions about coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) resources](#)  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for international travelers](#)

Mental health support:

[BetterHelp](#)  
[Beyond Blue](#)

Stay safe and look after one another.

Kind regards,

Andrew Bailey  
MinEx CRC CEO